GIVING A CLUE

Board games are among the most beloved activities for children, and even more so than that, board games are timeless! This aspect of being timeless is something that makes the production CLUE: ON STAGE so entertaining, enjoyable and laughter-inducing for all members of the audience, whether an audience member is eight years old or sixty-eight years old. Join along with the cast and crew of Oak Park’s production of CLUE: ON STAGE for a night filled with humor and mystery beyond compare.

Originally popularized as a board game, the concept of Clue was made into a movie in 1985, a musical in 1997, and lastly, into a play in 2018, named CLUE: ON STAGE. The show follows six socialites who are invited to the Boddy household, all with one thing in common: each is getting blackmailed by Mr. Boddy. As murders ensue and secrets are revealed, there is only one question left to answer: who done it?

Brenden Blue (Wadsworth) quite literally carries the show on his back and does so with poise and wonderful characterization. Through his sharp and hilarious movements and his seamless monologue delivery, Blue keeps the audience on the edge of their seats, waiting to hear what will happen next. Blue’s line delivery was exemplary, especially in the end portion of the show, or when revealing any important information throughout the course of the play.

All six of the players show wonderful characterization and work beautifully with one another, especially when ad-libbing. In particular, Sammy AbuNamous (Mr. Green) and Reese Hill (Mrs. Peacock) exhibit wonderful comedic timing and seem to become more and more energized as the show continues on. Hill has wonderful facial expressions and beautiful line delivery, causing the audience to laugh with every word, and AbuNamous’s exhibition of physical comedy throughout the show is nothing short of amazing.

Given the circumstances, the set is wonderfully put together and is still incredibly detailed. Each of the many rooms in the house looks realistic and different from the last, with each room having almost a nostalgic feel, making the audience feel like they are a part of it all. The costume choices (Emily Morrison) are also wonderful, specifically the dresses of Yvette, Miss Scarlet, and Mrs. Peacock.

The sound design was very effective, but sometimes was a bit distracting due to the volume level. However, the sound design still managed to keep the mood of the show and assisted beautifully in the message. The chemistry between each of the players is wonderful, but there were a few lines that seemed tentative and a few instances of stuttering, though the characters all bounced back from each of these instances wonderfully as well.

Overall, CLUE: ON STAGE, not only keeps the audience on the edge of their seats, but gives the audience the laugh of a lifetime in the process.

by Johanna Quigley of Bishop Miege High School

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YOU HAVE NO CLUE HOW GOOD THIS SHOW IS!

If you have ever played the board game “Clue”, you will be familiar with the mystery, suspense, and intrigue that accompany the game. All these features come to life in Oak Park High School�s production of CLUE: ON STAGE!

CLUE: ON STAGE is based on the 1985 movie “Clue”, which in turn is inspired by the board game of the same name. The story follows six guests at a mysterious party thrown by an unknown host, given pseudonyms so as to prevent their identities from being known: Colonel Mustard, Mrs. White, Mrs. Peacock, Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet, and Professor Plum. The six follow the butler, Wadsworth, around the house, dogged by the murders of the host and house staff. One of them is certainly guilty, but who?

Brenden Blue (Wadsworth) leads the show with a sophisticated air, perfectly encapsulating the role of the fast-talking butler. Blue’s character choices are clear in all of his actions, from his loudest moments to his tiniest quirks. Sammy AbuNamous (Mr. Green) steals the spotlight of every scene he appears in. He is entertaining to watch, always completely engaged in the scene; even when the focus is not on him, he stays in character as if he was born into the role.

Reese Hill (Mrs. Peacock) convincingly portrays the hysterical senator�s wife. Hill brings scenes to life with her over-the-top expressions and reactions. Every moment of revelation is sure to be punctuated by a well-executed blood-curdling scream from Hill, bringing the panic to life. Although not prominently featured, Adrian Berry (Mr. Boddy) and Olivia Robbins (Cook) stand out--or rather, “lie” out. Both characters are dead for a good portion of the show and remain on stage the entire time. The pair’s ability to remain still and stoic, even when other actors move them around, is incredibly impressive and unexpectedly entertaining.

The set is gorgeous, made up of a back wall and two rotating platforms. Both platforms turn several times to reveal three or four different rooms, an unforgettable feat for how small they are. The set is complimented by the exquisite costumes, the manager of which is Emily Morrison. The costumes are well-chosen and precisely designed to fit their characters, perhaps the most notable being Mrs. Peacock’s peacock-feather cloak. The actors’ hair is excellently designed and executed by Lily Dickson; all hair stayed styled throughout the show, and wigs (and a mustache, in one case) never slipped out of place.

Several times during the play, the technical crew can be seen through the spaces in the curtains, pulling some of the suspension of disbelief from the performance. Fortunately, the actors are quick to bring the attention of the audience back to the scene. There are moments when the actors become over-excited and speak a little too fast, but they quickly fall back into the rhythm and articulate well.

The students of Oak Park High School rise to the challenge of this show and exceed expectations. CLUE: ON STAGE leaves viewers in stitches, making for a wonderful night out!

by Samantha Lambert of Grandview High School

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WAS IT MR. GREEN IN THE LOUNGE?

It�s a dark and damp evening, a night of dull entertainment. Your brother suggests a maniacally simple game of clue. But little does he know the story behind the pieces. Oak Park High School brings this story to life in CLUE: ON STAGE.

CLUE: ON STAGE is originally adapted from the cult classic 1985 screenplay by Jonathan Lynn. With 216 astounding endings, the film version was deemed worthy enough to be followed by a UK television series in 1990. The plot is excruciatingly simple: Six guests are invited to a dinner party thrown by an anonymous host. They are all given different quirky aliases. The catch is they are all told to not reveal any of their personal information, it is soon discovered that all of them have fallen victim to the same blackmailer. Each is presented with a weapon and an option: pay their extortionist double or kill the innocent butler. What follows soon after is an energetically amusing evening, which is full of murder, mystery, and screams as they all try to investigate as to who the culprit legitimately is. Amongst the endless sea of criminals that prowl within the enclosure. Oak Park High School presents CLUE: ON STAGE.

The show begins with the coordinated, yet delirious butler Wadsworth (Brenden Blue) as he paces back and forth across the stage, constantly checking the time informing the audience of the arriving guests. Blue is distinctive and highly peculiar throughout the entirety of the production. Blue's accent is tenacious and never overbearing. Blue's overall appearance is extremely well calculated as every one of his small moments shows as his character continues to grow.

The batty, neurotic churchgoing wife of a senator (Mrs. Peacock) is played by Reese Hill. Hill controls this persona throughout the play even when she is not the main focus of a scene. Mrs. Peacock’s mysterious past introduces a burning desire to exterminate the cook, which Hill brings in comedic complexity. Hill uses her complex background to execute wild mannerisms and loud mediocrity seamlessly. Even her dress designed and created by costume manager (Emily Morrison) while very bird-like redirects your eyes to the main centerpiece being the cross which is perfectly centered on her body. Illuminating the character.

The technical aspects of the show are also quite impressive. Props manager Nick Begley creates a life-like body and decapitated head that is so realistic you might just want to call the police. The sound cues by Kaleighan Chastain are creepily smooth and really immerse the world of Clue into Oak Park High School�s auditorium. Chastain even developed a short soundtrack to accompany the show which simulates the feeling of playing clue yourself in the living room.

In the end, Oak Park High School's CLUE: ON STAGE is a highly energetic and fun show, full of mystery and a touch of chaos. As for who did it? Well, we will leave that up to your curiosity.

by Zoey Love of Platte County High School

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PEOPLE ARE DYING TO SEE THIS SHOW

This classic board game comes to life in CLUE: ON STAGE. With plot twist galore and murder being around every corner it is a show you don�t want to miss. The cast and crew of this outstanding show truly shine a light on every aspect of CLUE: ON STAGE.

CLUE: ON STAGE is loosely based on the popular board game but also the movie Clue. CLUE: ON STAGE is almost an exact replica of the movie that came out in 1985. The show is filled with mysterious characters with secrets that the host of the dinner party holds over their heads. In order to escape prison and embarrassment, they must find out who is killing everyone.

The show is led by the butler Wadsworth, played by Brenden Blue. Wadsworth was excellently portrayed with his quick talking and often time's loony personality. Throughout the show, Brenden shows excellent character development and was usually able to keep up with his fast-paced dialect which really added to his character. He was truly a standout actor.

CLUE: ON STAGE would not be complete without The Players. This ensemble of Miss Scarlet, Mrs.Peacock, Mrs.White, Colonel Mustard, Professor Plum, and Mr. Green was very animated and had extremely genuine reactions to what was happening around them. One person, in particular, was Miss Scarlet portrayed by Hannah Butts. Every time she walked around the stage or said a line she took over the scene. She always had a very strong presence with great physicality. Another actor with notable physicality was Mr. Green, played by Sammy AbuNamous. He was a very funny character especially with his movements during one particular scene when the whole cast was running around his bit was extra funny.

No show is complete without technical elements and the technical elements in this show were to die for. First of all, it seemed that Miss Scarlet, Mrs. White, and Mrs. Peacock all wore wigs but they were put on so well I could hardly tell they were wigs. Also, the stage makeup was very visible from the audience and added to their characters. So a big round of applause to Lily Dickson for her amazing work, but now a round of applause to the set manager Levi Mckinney. Now for the set, it was truly amazing how they fit 8 rooms on the stage. It was very creative of them to put 3-4 rooms on the revolving sets on the sides of the stage.

While the costumes were absolutely beautiful and they fit each character and actor very well the varying levels of formality between the characters was a little odd at times. It was also hard to see the actors at times because the lights were a little dark but the colored lights for each character were spot on and really added to the scenes they were used in.

So hurry over to Oak Park High School�s performance of CLUE: ON STAGE. Because just like a graveyard people are dying to get in and see these amazing actors.

by Annabelle Mitchell of Belton High School

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CHECK AND CHECK

The goal of the board game, CLUE!, is to check off all of the boxes one by one. If you’re fortunate enough, you’ll catch a lucky break and take a lucky guess, or you’ll find a strategy that leads you to the win. Oak Park High School�s rendition of CLUE: ON STAGE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION) can attribute their win to checking off all the boxes, from functional tech to bold and dynamic characters.

CLUE: ON STAGE is based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, additional material by Hunter Foster, Sandy Rustin, and Eric Prince, based on the Hasbro board game, CLUE!, based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Pictures with original music by David Abbinati. Its long line of success can be traced down to the concept�s unique characters and clear quenching of an audience�s thirst for a good mystery. Oak Park delivered this creatively and memorably.

Oak Park demonstrates with a skillful ensemble of six murderous players (Hannah Butts as Miss Scarlet, Reese Hill as Mrs. Peacock, Emily Witter as Mrs. White, Ashton Mychalczuk as Colonel Mustard, Cameron Burns as Professor Plum, and Sammy AbuNamous as Mr. Green) how much can be done without a single line said. Between creating a soundscape at dinner to omit awkward silence between party guests and filling a great deal of time by stealing confidential files using the most preposterous movements their character can muster(d) (ha! get it?), their physicality says everything we need to know. In particular, Reese Hill’s rendition of Mrs. Peacock uses lavish movements and a larger-than-life stature to create a character bolder than most would dare to even attempt. Credit is also due for Ashton Mychalczuk, whose endearing nature and comedic timing brought a great lightness to the production.

But one cannot speak to incredible character without taking their hats off to the Butler (so we think?). Wadsworth, played by Brenden Blue, provides incredible comedic timing through his sharp nature, which does wonders to the contrast between him and the players. From his exact and detailed mannerisms to his impressive sinister laugh, Blue�s skill makes Wadsworth the most dynamic character in the mansion.

What is also quite impressive is the ability of many featured characters to utilize their time on stage to add to the production significantly. Yvette, the French maid, is played masterfully by Maya Horn. Horn knows her character well and never misses a beat or an opportunity for stage-business. Adrian Berry is also quite notable in his roll, Mr. Boddy, due to his distinct characterization.

Although strategy can lead you to win the game of CLUE!, ultimately, not all of the boxes can be checked off every time. Unfortunately, there were many moments in which bold characterization took away from the natural style of the production. Lines were also left tripped over in some places. But when you can’t check in all the boxes, the game leads you to take a leap of faith. It is extraordinary that the sound crew (designed by Kaleighan Chastain) has the ability to constantly incorporate background music while still keeping their ever dynamic actors� levels up to par. The set, designed by Levi McKinely and assisted by Hayden Geary, also knows how to roll with the punches using its creative use of rotating platforms to depict a variety of rooms in a snap.

All in all, despite minor pieces missing to the case, Oak Park is successful in their efforts through their strategic characterization and on-their-toes technical elements. As they make their final accusation, and take their final bow, we can clearly see they win the game!

by Jessica Frank of Belton High School

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KILLED IF YOU DO KILL IF YOU DONT
What do six weapons, six pieces of blackmail, and a sly butler get you?  Motives and Murder. At Oak Park High School production of CLUE: ON STAGE all questions are answered, all except for one.

Based on screenplay by Johnathan Lynn CLUE: ON STAGE is based upon the classic board game and movie. The story follows six individuals who are sent a letter addressing them by their alias, giving them the instructions to meet at a mansion. Once there the murders start taking place, and it is their job to figure out whodunnit.

Brendan Blue plays the sly strategic butler named Wadsworth. Blue’s ability to go from comedic relief to suspected villain is breathtaking. Blue can make you gasp with fear or with laughter depending on the scene. Blue makes you forget about the age-old question. Did the butler do it? As he is too busy cracking jokes at these high-stake scenes.

Hannah Butts portrays Miss Scarlet a suave woman, who does not back down in the face of impending doom. While murders keep happening around her, she does not seem phased. Butts goes above and beyond with her character. From body language to full on sass Butts blows this character out of the water. Sammy AbuNamous plays a heartfelt nerdy man, who has the audience cackling over his antics. AbuNamous brings up the energy for every scene, making all eyes turn to him.

The lighting design by Izzy Christus not only sets the personality for each suspect, but also sets the intensity for each murder. Christus lights never disappoint. As when each suspect enters the room the lighting matches the alias. Nick Begley decorates the set beautifully with his props. Each adds a new layer to this mystery. The costume design by Emily Morrison is nothing but stunning. From Miss Scarlets green skin-tight dress to Yvette’s French maid costume. Morrison managed to make the costumes fit the time period perfectly without letting the costumes go dull.

Some actors seemed to rush over lines but made up for it by having a variety of accents for their characters. Even though the show faced some hardships the cast and crew muttered together to make this an outstanding performance

As the show wraps up answering the all time question of who dunnit, Oak Park High School production of CLUE: ON STAGE leaves the audience with one final question. Would you want to play again?

by Shelly Simily of Belton High School

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IT WAS OAK PARK, IN THE THEATER, WITH THE SHOW

Mystery, murder and plot twists oh my! All of this and more waits at Oak Park High School�s production of CLUE: ON STAGE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION).

CLUE: ON STAGE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION) is written by Sandy Rustin and based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn. The show tells the story of six characters, all given aliases: Mr. Green, Colonel Mustard, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mrs. Peacock, and Miss Scarlet. One thing all these guests have in common is that they have been blackmailed by the mysterious Mr. Boddy and they now find themselves invited to Mr. Boddy�s house. When Mr. Boddy turns up dead during the party, chaos ensues as the group attempts to solve the murder.

Lead actor Brenden Blue plays Wadsworth, Mr. Boddy’s faithful butler. Blue uses his body language and accent to portray the character splendidly. Supporting Actor Sammy AbuNamous plays Mr. Green. AbuNamous has fabulous character and delivers his comedic lines with entertaining flair. Ashton Mychalczuk plays Colonel Mustard. Mychalczuk projects excellently and has great diction at all times. Also, Mychalczuk portrays the slow to realize everything character that is Colonel Mustard with precision. Reese Hill takes everything over the top in her role as Mrs. Peacock. Hill uses the go big or go home mentality with great success and gets the audience laughing nonstop. Adrian Berry plays Mr. Boddy. Despite having a very small amount of stage time Berry shows strong character and impresses with his charm. Maya Horn plays Yvette, the maid. Horn does an outstanding job of staying in character at all times. She can be seen cleaning and spiffing up the house when she is not in the center of the onstage action. Horn also has a distinct accent that stays consistent at all times.

The technical aspects of the show have their ups and downs. The show�s set is very creatively made by Levi Mckinney and Hayden Geary and uses rotating platforms very well. However, it is too easy to see backstage and technicians can be seen backstage at times. The Costumes for the show are all very masterfully crafted by Emily Morrison and the color coordination for each character and their respective alias is spot on. The sound effects are designed by Kaleighan Chastain, Katie Hulme, and Maddie Webb. They fit well with the show’s style, but sometimes they can be too loud and distract from what the actors are saying. However, the actors are able to mask this flaw by not getting distracted and projecting even more so that they are heard over the sound effect. The lights are designed by Izzy Christus. Christus keeps the lighting on stage consistent and impresses with the use of matching colored lights shining on each of the main players several times during the show.

Murder and mystery await, so don’t hesitate. Oak Park High School’s production of CLUE: ON STAGE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION) won�t live forever.

by Tyler Pitts of Belton High School

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DYING OF LAUGHTER AT OAK PARK HIGH

Nothing brings people together quite like a good murder mystery. In OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL’S production of CLUE: ON STAGE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION), the cast leaves the audience dying for more.

This story all began with Hasbro’s infamous game called “Clue” which was released in 1949. It was supposed to be released in 1947, but the two-year delay was brought on by postwar shortages. In 1985, the Paramount Pictures movie by Jonathan Lynn, also titled “Clue”, was released. This is the story which “Clue: On Stage”, is based on. Six guests are invited to a dinner party at a mysterious old mansion and are greeted by a butler who goes by Wadsworth. They each have an alias they must go by: Professor. Plum, Miss Scarlet, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Colonel Mustard, and Mrs. White. When they meet their host Mr. Boddy, he reveals that he has been blackmailing them all. When Mr. Boddy dies, the rag-tag bunch of Washington DC residents must figure out who did it before the police arrive. However, things do not exactly go to plan.

Wadsworth, played by Brenden Blue, sustains the chaotic mood present throughout the show in an unexpected way. As a stereotypical butler, he keeps a consistent accent and maintains the same fanciful, yet sophisticated mannerisms Wadsworth is known for. These forms of characterization come together to add a sense of sarcasm to the show.

Maya Horn does a spectacular job of portraying Yvette, having the most prominent accent of everyone in the show. Her inflection and diction is considerably well-done. Horn’s use of her voice truly completes her character and expresses who Yvette is. All of the guests do a great job of conveying their own individual personalities and using their mannerisms and stature, along with their facials and inflection. Each character feeds off of the other characters� energy to create an atmosphere of chaos and confusion all wrapped up with humor.

For the duration of the show, the microphones were at the ideal level so that every line could be heard, yet adjusted well to screams and other high-volume points of the show so that they were not too loud. Especially when considering the small number of microphones available to the sound crew, the crew wonderfully executed this aspect of the show. The lighting also was well-done to put emphasis on certain characters at dramatic points, and to set certain scenes apart so that the other parts of the set just became background and did not distract the audience. The rotating set was effective in portraying each room of the mansion in a way that was easy to understand, as well. Overall, the technical aspects of this production were executed considerably well.

While all characters fed off of each other’s energy, there were some moments during the show that seemed a bit too rushed and energetic, which led to slight hesitation regarding lines at times. However, despite these few moments, the characters were able to recover well and return to their high-energy characters. There were also some sound effects which seemed to overwhelm the scenes, simply because they were too loud for the audience to focus on the characters. These momentary issues were easily overcome, though, and the audience was able to refocus on the characters.

From charming and quirky characters to wonderfully executed technical aspects, OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL�S production of CLUE: ON STAGE leaves the audience dying of laughter and on the edge of their seats waiting for more!

by Maizie Young of Bishop Miege High School

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OAK PARK DIDN�T DO IT

The dusty board game is brought out of the closet as it has not been pulled out for years. As the lid is opened, the board unfolds revealing the layout of the mansion. Three mysterious cards are put in the “Confidential” envelope in the center of the board hiding the killer, the weapon, and the room. The characters and their backstories unfold. Whodunit?

When the iconic characters Colonel Mustard, Professor Plum, Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet, Mrs. Peacock, and Mrs. White receive a dinner invitation to the Boddy Manor, they soon discover that there is a murderer among them. Mr. Boddy is found dead surrounded by the characters, each holding a weapon in their hand. Born from the 1985 film Clue written by Jonathon Lynn, he, Sandy Rustin, Hunter Foster, and Eric Prince work together to produce CLUE: ON STAGE!

Brenden Blue does an amazing job of portraying the character of Wadsworth. Between his narration to the audience, his on-point facial expressions, and his consistent physicality, it is hard for the audience to not enjoy his character.

Other standouts in the performance include Mrs. Peacock (Reese Hill), Mr. Green (Sammy AbuNamous), and Yvette (Maya Horn). Hill does a wonderful job of making her emotions prominent and swift with every move. Her comedic timing with her church-lady vibes really completes the character. AbuNamous, on the other hand, executes the balance of his nerdiness and clumsiness through his posture, voice, and facial expressions. To top it off, Horn keeps her constant characterization even when she is not the center of attention. She also has a consistent French accent that adds to the sexiness of the character.

Overall, the suspects tie the whole show together. The natural bounce off of each other makes the audience really feel like they have been immersed in the game. While there is some obvious improvisation, the cast is able to quickly recover from the stumble. In addition, all characters are able to play the silence with their actions and facial expressions, making the silence less awkward.

Considering that the set crew had to rebuild their set, Levi McKinney and his crew is able to recover from this mishap wonderfully. The rotating sets on both sides of the stage are not only creative but captivating and entertaining to see the connection between the rooms. Emily Morrison does a great job leading the costume crew with the simple, yet appropriate costumes. Though the costumes look just like the characters from the board game, the formality of the costumes is not consistent. Nick Begley and the rest of the props crew stay as accurate as they can with the props, from the lead pipe to the revolver to the fake head.

All in all, Oak Park’s production of CLUE: ON STAGE will leave the audience leaving the theater feeling like a true detective.

by Paul Ruf of Bishop Miege High School

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GET A CLUE:COME SEE THIS SHOW

Clue: The classic board game everyone knows and loves. Contrary to the common knowledge of the board game, there is a stage adaptation of this game for theatre.

The play of Clue: On Stage is narrated by the butler at Mr. Boddy's mansion, Wadsworth, who addresses the audience as if they too are attending the dinner party with the cult-classic guests Miss Scarlet, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Colonel Mustard, Professor Plum, and Mr. Green. The party guests and the audience embark on a thrilling murder-mystery involving comedy, twists, and an unexpected ending.

The Oak Park High School production of Clue: On Stage is led by Brenden Blue, who plays the role of Wadsworth. His impressive accent and formal tone is effective in guiding the audience through the story, while also remaining mysteries. This mystery keeps the play suspenseful and engaging for all those watching.

The supporting actors of Clue: On Stage at Oak Park High School mainly consists of the party guests. While not all six characters remain completely confident in their knowledge of their specific persona, there are several that truly embrace every second they spend on stage as their character. Reese Hill as Mrs. Peacock is a perfect representation of this. Hill's stage presence is impeccable, leaving every audience member to be impressed by her comedic timing and vivid facial expressions.

The technical aspects of Clue: On Stage is of the upmost impressiveness. The incredibly large stage is completely and strategically filled with sections to represent different areas of the mansion that is visually appealing to the audience and make sense in the actor's blocking. One of the sections involves a rotating set that has several rooms. While not all transitions are seamless, the rotating set definitely helps this incredibly busy tech crew. Details such as specific paintings, furniture, and small trinkets in the individual rooms truly wrap the whole show together.

As with any high school production, there is always room for improvement. Some actors simply do not have as much energy as the others, and it shows through very easily. There are several scene changes that would make the transitions better if they are done in a faster manner. Lastly, the background music and ominous sound effects are only beneficial when they are not too loud and distracting.

Oak Park High School's presentation of Clue: On Stage is a great option to see if one wants to have a good laugh, enjoy an engaging and mysterious plot, or simply see a production that is entertaining and familiar to most anyone who sees it.

by Sophia Nordling of Bishop Miege High School

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IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY STAGE

Many people have heard of the global game phenomenon, “Clue.” Trying to unveil the real murder of the esteemed estate owner, you uncover clues and pick up dropped hints. However, the stakes are raised, in Clue: On Stage, when they are locked in the house with the murder, they suddenly realize, they must try to not get offed themselves. This wacky comedy comes to life on stage with OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL. What could go wrong with six blackmailed criminals, all locked inside one house, trying to find the incriminating evidence of 6 killings, and the cops on the way?

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL does an outstanding job always being on. Brenden Blue, who played Wadsworth, the quirky, fast talking, sassy butler, does an amazing job with always staying in character and sticking with his features. Brenden always was slicking back his hair and checking his pocket watch and made a very entertaining piece to the puzzle. While Brenden was opening doors and making quick comebacks, Reese Hill, portraying Mrs. Peacock never ceases to bring the facial expressions and physicality. There is not a moment that you could see Mrs. Peacock scowling at another one of the guests or clutching her diamond cross necklace.

Along with the hilarious quips and characterization Reese Hill brings with Mrs. Peacock, it cannot go without saying, the immaculate coat designed by Emily Morrison and the costume crew. The coat was blue up top with feathers draping at the bottom that could be held up and fanned out to reveal a stunning peacock effect.

Incidentally, the effects, lighting, sound, and stage design was nothing less than extraordinary.  As humans, sometimes we might change things at the last minute. It is a part of life. So, when another group comes in and tells you the week before tech week you must change your set, you do have to do quick efficient but safe work. This is exactly what OAK PARK HILL SCHOOL had to do days before their show opened. Construction manager Levi McKinney and the construction crew worked like dogs to perfect their new movable set. Their hard work payed off with the multiple rooms they were able to fit into one moving set piece. Not to mention the incredibly impressive secret passages from room to room.

Although, the show had their hardships with blown out mics weeks before showtime and the Clue: On Stage Set Fiasco of 2020, the students put together one, murderously entertaining and high spirited show. From Mr. Green (Sammy AbuNamous) to the singing telegram girl (Jillian Ray) to every single agent that entered through the door, every single person was intriguing and fascinating to watch.

Clue: On Stage at OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL is certainly a mysterious show. The only way to find out “who dun it” is to go see for yourself, but you better watch your back. Because you might never know who will be next.

by Savannah Justice of Blue Springs South High School

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IT WAS OAK PARK, IN THE AUDITORIUM, WITH THE CLUE: ON STAGE CAST.

When CLUE the movie first came out, it was a huge success. Such a success, in fact, that they soon made a musical, a play, and even a board game! Now, nearly everyone is familiar with this suspenseful tale.

All of the actors in CLUE: ON STAGE have done an exquisite job at portraying their characters. One actor in particular who stands out to me is Sammy AbuNamous, who plays Mr. Green. Sammy does an amazing job at filling the shoes of this exceptional funny character. Not just in saying his lines, but also in his body language, and mannerisms. In one scene, there is no lines, they just walk back and forth across the stage, and Sammy does an amazing job at portraying his character through nothing but the way he walked, and in doing so, causes a lot of laughter. Another actor that stands out to me is Brenden Blue, who plays Wadsworth. Brenden does an amazing job at playing a character who is very mysterious, and yet hilarious. And though most of his lines are very fast, he still manages to get them out in a way that the audience can understand. He is also very skilled with the way that he moves. It is very intentional, meaningful, and fits the character nicely.

In some of the smaller roles, though they don’t necessarily have as much stage time, they are all spectacular, and each of them has huge stage presence. Although they all do amazing, one that sticks out to me is Maya Horn, who plays Yvette. Maya, throughout the whole show, has an amazing French accent, and not once does it waver. Another person who stands out to me is Olivia Robbins, who plays Cook. Although Olivia has very few lines, she says much with her body language. You can tell exactly how the character feels about any given situation simply by the way she moves.

When you walk into the auditorium, the first thing you see is the signature CLUE fingerprint projected onto the curtains. Although there were some setbacks, as far as tech goes, they were still able to pull it off, without really distracting from the show. When Wadsworth starts talking to the audience, they do a nice job of centering the attention on him. The set design is very creative, and the way they switch between rooms is absolutely genius. And the slightly muted colors of the set are perfect for the mysterious feeling of the show.

There are some parts in the show where they are starting to figure things out, and some of the lines start to get really fast, and hard to understand. In some other parts, some of the actors have very high energy, and others don’t quite match that energy.

Overall, the production went swimmingly, and the audience was left clueless as to how they got away with such a successful show.

by Brenna Bridge of Center High School

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GET A CLUE! AND GO SEE OAK PARKS� SHOCKING PRODUCTION

We all know and the classic line of “Who done it? Where? And With what?” The thrill of the chase it so accelerating it is almost deadly and Oak Park will prove that to you with their production of CLUE: ON STAGE. You can see all the love and passion the actors have when they are performing as they’re inviting you to have fun with them! Oak Park will keep you on your feet and begging for more as they discover the many mysteries of the Boddy manor.

CLUE: ON STAGE is the theater adaptation of the cult classic movie Clue, which was also inspired by the all-time classic board game. With an extremely loyal and dedicated fan base, this play was a smash hit! Based solely around the concept of murder mystery, the characters, as well as the audience, are tasked to find out who the murderer is in real-time before it’s too late! The play is an overall very immersive experience and completely unforgettable!

All the actors have amazing chemistry when working off of each other and you can tell that they’ve spent a lot of time together, they never have a dull moment together and it makes the show wonderful. In his portrayal of Wadsworth, Brenden Blue captures the whole essence of his character. With his accent and physicality, it’s almost like you’re watching Tim Curry himself. Blue overcomes many difficult lines and breathes energy fully into the show. Reese Hill is hilarious as Mrs. Peacock; every moment Hill is on stage she is delivering impeccable timing and amazing facial expressions. She fully commits to her character and never skips a beat she is so fun to watch the whole way through!

Maya Horn delivers a show-stopping performance in her role as Yvette! You won’t be able to take your eyes off of her as she screams and runs around the house. Horn always has a delightful amount of energy and will be sure to keep you entertained. Sammy AbuNamous makes a wonderful Mr. Green! The way he bounces off of his fellow actors keeps the show rolling! His physicality of the character always draws you in and it is impossible to keep your eyes off of him! Emily Witter is spot on in her performance as Mrs. White! Witter delivers many sides of her character and never has a boring moment. From the moment she steps on stage to bows she is sure to leave you with laughs from days later.

Oak Park had a lot to overcome in only a few days when it came to tech. Their mics were blown out and they had to redesign the set, but they didn’t let that stop them! Levi McKinney and Hayden Geary made such a wonderful set in such a short amount of time and it embodies the feel of the movie! The sound design by Kaleighan Chastain adds to the play! You can tell all the crew poured a lot of heart and soul into this production and it is so worth it! The costumes done by Emily Morrison were mind-blowing and looks so professional! Lily Dickson’s imaginative special effect skills is one of the best parts of the entire production! The quality Dickson executed is astonishing. Despite the occasional drops in energy, the cast is always able to pick it right back up, you’ll probably forget it ever happened!

The amount of dedication and passion that Oak Park put into this production should be rewarded! Their show is drop-dead amazing, and audiences will love it! You definitely will not want to miss this show for another second! So, hurry before it is too late, and everyone has been murdered! Join in on the fun and enjoy Oak Parks’ production of CLUE: ON STAGE!

by Faith Newell of Center High School

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GET A CLUE WITH OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL
On a dark and stormy night, six players take the stage to solve the timeless who-dun-it mystery. With the cops on the way, a dead host, and a butler who may know more than he’s letting on, Oak Park High School brings the classic board game to life with their production of CLUE: ON STAGE.

CLUE: ON STAGE is based off the famous board game, Clue, created in the 1940s. Clue was turned into a film in 1985 and finally was brought to the stage in recent years. The show brings the six famous characters to a dinner party, all whom are being blackmailed by their host. When the characters are given weapons, they have a choice to kill the butler or pay their host double.

When entering the home, each character is greeted by the butler, Wadsworth (Brenden Blue). Blue, at the center of the story, has the job of keeping the evening together. He does well with his ability to narrate and keep the story fresh. With comically over exaggerated movements and quick, witty humor, Blue does a fantastic job portraying his two-sided, conniving character. Hannah Butts portrays the role of Miss Scarlet, the unapologetic scandalous escort. Butts’ confident body language and posture is very strong throughout the performance. Butts is always in character and never misses a comedic moment.

Maya Horn plays the role of Yvette, the French maid. Horn does a great job with her seductive, French accent and was always clear and easy to understand. Mr. Green (Sammy AbuNamous) is a consistent comedic relief throughout the show. With emphasized movement and a hilariously snarky wit, AbuNamous brings this compelling character to life.

The costuming for these distinct and well-known players, done by Emily Morrison, brought this show to a whole new level. From color scheme, to age group, to knowing whether the character would be dressed provocatively or extravagantly, the costumes were picked to perfection. They not only brought the famous board game pieces to life, they brought color and eye-catching moments to the stage. The costumes were paired seamlessly well with the hair and makeup of each character, done by Lily Dickson. Dickson was able to flawlessly show the difference in age and personality of each character through their hair and makeup.

While most technical aspects of the show were well done and efficient, some were slightly faulty and drew attention away from the show. Some lighting made it difficult to see all actors and sound had times where it became difficult to hear actors because of sound effects or background music. The crew always did well with fast transitions and sound cues were always on time.

With a witty group of players, creative technical aspects, and a classic game of who-dun-it, Oak Park High School brings the famous murder mystery to stage in their production of CLUE: ON STAGE.

by Holly Gerry of Center High School

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WHODUNIT?...OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Mystery excellence waits at Oak Park High School’s CLUE: ON STAGE.  Follow the six zany, and scandalous blackmailees as they attempt to squelch their problematic secrets in the most permanent way: death.

Clue is a wonderful murder mystery that has left its mark on society.  The game is called Cluedo, or simply Clue, in North America.  The game has been remade many times and is now produced by the American game and toy company, Hasbro. The well-known film adaptation of this board game was made in 1986, featuring such renowned actors as Tim Curry (Wadsworth), Eileen Brennan (Mrs. Peacock), and Madeline Kahn (Mrs. White).

The cast of clue, by design, is one of equal heft for each character with the exception of Wadsworth the Butler.  Wadsworth is essentially the narrator and conductor of the train that is Clue.  Brenden Blue’s Wadsworth is one of great composure and savoir-faire.  Blue has great comedic timing and tone.  His performance proves to be quite reminiscent of Tim Curry’s 1986 film performance in the best way.  Sammy AbuNamous� Mr. Green stands out amongst the rest.  AbuNamous delivers a thoroughly timid, nasal, and rational Mr. Green ideally suited to this cast.  In a refreshing manner Mr. Green’s dourness roots the surplus of confident characters precluding the action of the story from getting away from them.  AbuNamous is impressively versatile serving as the calm amongst the wild but able to flip the switch when necessary.  AbuNamous provides a very unique run that is both funny and physically impressive during the nonverbal scene in which characters simply perform different pass
es across the stage with various props to illustrate their suspicions as to the specifics of the culprits.  Reese Hill’s Mrs. Peacock also delivers a peculiar yet enjoyable way of moving during the nonverbal scene.  Mrs. Peacock, a devout Christian, loudmouth wife of a senator, is expertly portrayed by Hill.  Rather than shy away from the challenge that is Mrs. Peacock, Hill submerges herself in the role expertly fulfilling every aspect.

Maya Horn’s Yvette is seductive and thorough.  Horn maintains character for the entirety of her time on stage preceding her untimely demise.  Horn provides essential comedic tidbits that brighten the production.  Horn is not the only one with comedic interspersion's as Ashton Mychalczuk’s Colonel Mustard always proves effective in evoking laughs with his slightly dumb comments.  The cast as a whole has great movement quality, nimbly falling and/or performing stage combat with ease.

The set by Levi McKinney and Hayden Geary is a great representation of the show.  The sets are colorful, polished and always keep you guessing.  The set designers make the most of the space they have available using multiple turning platforms with each hosting about three scenes.  Costumes by Emily Morrison are fitting for the characters and expertly customized with no indication that they were ever used for any other production.  Makeup by Lily Dickinson is so much more than just makeup.  Dickinson constructs a complete head that is unsettling in its realism.

The costumes are, as a whole, wonderful but at times uncharacteristic details takes away from the perception.  The moods of scenes and the entrances of each character are nicely differentiated through lighting but at times the lighting lags creating awkward moments of darkness.

So, �Whodunit?�  The answer: Oak Park High School, in the theater, with their many talents.

by Reina Gray of Center High School

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Nobody has a clue at Oak Park High School

Lights, camera, action! That is what they have in the auditorium of Oak Park High School in the production of CLUE: ON STAGE. This whole legacy started in 1985 when the movie Clue made its appearance in Hollywood. The book and board game quickly followed in 1949, where the legacy continued on for dozens of years.

The classic board game is brought to life in the production of CLUE: ON STAGE! Six supposed strangers are invited to a lavish mansion for a dinner party thrown by an anonymous host. Each guest receives an alias-- Miss Scarlet, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Colonel Mustard, Professor Plum, and Mr. Green. Though told to discourage any personal information, they are all discovered to be victims of the same blackmailer, the very host of the evening. They each are presented with a weapon and given an option: pay their blackmailer double or kill the innocent butler. What follows is a mad dash, slapstick evening full of mystery and murder as they seek to puzzle out the culprit among these criminals.

The lead actors of the Oak Park production of CLUE: ONSTAGE are; Brenden Blue (Wadsworth), Maya Horn (Yvette), Hanna Butts (Miss Scarlet), Reese Hill (Mrs. Peacock), Emily Witter (Mrs. White), Ashton Mychalczuk (Colonel Mustard), Cameron Burns (Professor Plum), Sammy AbuNamous (Mr. Green), Adrian Berry (Mr. Boddy). Every one of these actors played their roles and was able to set the stage with ease. Especially Wadsworth (Played by Brenden Blue) who throughout the play interacted with the audience, giving clues as to who the killer was. He was also able to stay in character the entire time, even in his somewhat tragic death scene where he kept looking at his watch, waiting for his last breath.

The technical aspects of the play were impressive. When you walk into the auditorium you see the famous clue logo projected onto the stage curtains, giving the stage a mysterious ambiance that draws the audience in. Throughout the play, there were some instances where the mics stopped working but do to the fact that the characters were projecting so loudly already you could hardly tell. The costumes of the lead actors completely embodied the characters.

The production of CLUE: ONSTAGE at Oak Park High School was as hilarious as the movie itself. Throughout the play, the audience continued to guess “Who did it? Whereat? What was the weapon?” In the end, everyone was the murderer, everyone was guilty of something and paid the price. Oak Park High School lived up to the household name of Clue, giving it comedy, mystery, ambiance, and so much more. The audience felt that they were in the real-life version of the board game, having to guess who did along the way while receiving clues from the cast. Filled with dramatic irony, the play was a showstopper.

by Sophia Trout of Center High School

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Oak Park High School has taken on the challenge of a murder mystery with their production of Clue: On Stage. The stage production is based off of the movie, which was created from the game. With high expectations for the show, Oak Park certainly did a wonderful job.

Firstly, Wadsworth is a very difficult character to play, as he talks very fast and has a lot of monologues during the show. Brenden Blue is portraying the character in this production and is doing a wonderful job of it. He has the energy and shows the personality that is needed for the part. All of the party guests have very unique parts as well, as all of them are very different people. The actor playing Mr. Green, Sammy AbuNamous, stands out as a comic through the whole show. The stage presence of the whole character stands out in the way he runs around, and his body language through most of the show. All through the show there is a lot of screaming, since it's a murder mystery, and it is impressive with how even though they have to scream a lot, it isn't too overwhelming. They all are doing wonderful playing their characters and showing off the traits needed to play them.

Mr. Boddy and Cook, being portrayed respectively by Adrian Berry and Olivia Robbins, both have to play dead for a large portion of the show. It was very believable you could barely even see their breathing. It seems like it was very difficult to do that for as long as they did. Maya Horn, who plays Yvette, has an accent throughout the entire show and she doesn't drop it. It's very hard to speak in an accent that obviously isn't natural and keeping it up during a full show is impressive. The guests that come in, though not on stage for long amounts of time, have good stage presence.

The costumes for the show are wonderful, especially knowing a lot of them were tailored. It sort of feels like the levels of formality are different between the ladies and they don't really all seem to fit one party theme, but that also could portray their characters and the different personalities. The hair and makeup is very nice. Though hair and makeup isn't something that really stands out, as it wasn't a big part of the show, it is appropriate for the party setting.

The sound affects over all are amazing. There are moments when they are too loud and distracted from the scene, but they were all timed perfectly and sounded great. It is easy to hear, and usually understand, the actors, which is very impressive with the lack of microphones available that was mentioned to us. The lighting is also very impressive. There is a spotlight on the curtain before that was designed to look like a fingerprint that looks very cool.

The set for the show looks very nice. The colors could be brighter to catch more attention, but the rooms are very impressive.

Overall Oak Park is putting on a very impressive show for entertainment and you won't have a clue what comes next.

by Alicia Stowe of Grandview High School

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THE DEADLY GAME

In OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL’s Clue: On Stage, the stage comes alive with everything from clever gameplay to unique players.

 In Clue: On Stage, a group of guests are all invited to a mysterious party. Near the beginning of the show, it is announced that all the guests have their own secret reasons for coming to the party. Everyone realizes soon enough that there is one player they did not count on: murder!

Many important roles take the stage starting with the butler, Wordsworth (Brenden Blue) who captures the audience with his well-developed lines and intentional movements. Introducing the guests, Colonel Mustard (Ashton Mychalczuk) walks through the front door first; he brings the audience to joyful tears at his less than intelligent reactions. Mrs. White (Emily Witter) lightens sad moments well.

Miss Scarlet (Hannah Butts) is a scandalous character who makes the audience gasp as she dotes on men. Professor Plum (Cameron Burns) claims the title of attempted ladies� man as he hilariously fails at his many attempts to seduce women. Mrs. Peacock (Reese Hill) repeatedly takes her religiousness to new comedic and dramatic heights, often exclaiming about God. Mr. Green (Sammy AbuNamous) leaves the audience gasping for air as he delivers over and over again near perfect comedic timing and physical comedy.

Many other characters also shined, occasionally stealing the spotlight. The host, Mr. Boddy (Adrian Berry) brings a needed energy shift. The cook (Olivia Robins) is funny with one liners and Yvette (Maya Horn) is eloquent and charming.

The set for the play is beautiful, detailed, and functional. From the rotating stages that held four different furnished rooms to the closet and the stained-glass windows, every part of the set is well done and visually pleasing. The props are marvelous, accurate, and well designed; the prop head that is thrown around both looks realistic and is sturdy. The audio is always on cue, and is high quality, always matching directly with what is going on onstage. The costume manager, Emily Morrison, creates many gorgeous and well-suited outfits for the different characters, helping distinguish each individual character. The light design is inspired and amazing. The makeup is well done and allowed the actors’ features to be easily seen.

Most of the actors have occasional issues saying their lines, but overall give fantastic performances. The transitions are often slow but are done well otherwise. It seemed to be slightly difficult for the stage crew to be unseen, as there are multiple incidents where they are in view of the audience. Despite this, they only have a few instances where they are seen.

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL’s Clue: On Stage is an engaging play, rife with adventure, laughter, and a large drop of danger.

by Emma Lewis of Grandview High School

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WELCOME TO MYSTERY MANOR!!

It was a dark and stormy night when six unsuspecting guests adjourn to a mysterious manor for a night of dinner, blackmail, and death. As their host falls victim to an unknown murderer, the guests must scramble to figure out whodunit, before they are next! Led by the butler, the guests hilariously try to solve the case, while also trying not to get caught in their own misdeeds. As the deaths pile up, the questions become: Who did it? Where at? With what weapon? Bringing the popular board game to center stage, Oak Park High School’s production of CLUE: ON STAGE, creates an enchanting aura of mystery and murder.

CLUE: ON STAGE, first began as the famous Hasbro Board Game CLUE! Later in 1985, Jonathan Lynn adapted CLUE! into a screenplay, starring Tim Curry. Using both of these resources as inspirations, Lynn created CLUE: ON STAGE, with the assistance of Hunter Foster, Sandy Rustin, and Eric Prince. The story follows the six guests, known by their pseudonyms, as they attempt to solve the death of their host and blackmailer, Mr. Boddy, all before the police arrive. Along with Wadsworth the Butler, tensions rise and chaos ensues as more people in the manor begin to die off unexpectedly.

Leading this extraordinary ensemble of performers, Brenden Blue performs as Wadsworth, the prim and proper butler. With his charisma and spontaneity, Blue embodies a snarky and calm personality, adding texture and depth to the show. His quick speaking ability and outstanding physicality brings a distinctive stage presence, especially when Blue breaks the fourth wall. Another standout within the show is Sammy AbuNamous as Mr. Green. As one of the six guests, AbuNamous portrays the nervous, slightly allergic homosexual with amazing physicality. His comedic ambiance and reactions are spectacular, even when he is not the center of attention.

Mrs. Peacock, played by Reese Hill, is another outstanding performer in CLUE: ON STAGE. Her spontaneous actions and faith centered beliefs help create an unique contrast with her fellow guests. Hill’s portrayal of emotions were on display, ranging from extreme shock to paralyzing shame. Yvette the Maid, played by Maya Horn, also pulled off an amazing performance. Appearing in critical scenes, Horn’s sass and dramatic charm developed her flirtatious character throughout the plot. In addition, her accent was spot-on and never wavered. Despite her untimely demise, Yvette leaves an impression on the six guests and the butler, as the story leaps forward.

Designed by Nick Begley, the props of CLUE: ON STAGE was terrific. Ranging from plungers and handkerchiefs to murder weapons, the manor’s props were exquisite and unique, frequently fitting to a particular character. The sound, designed by Kaleighan Chastain, was phenomenal. With overlapping suspenseful music within scenes, the sound design helped increase the mysterious atmosphere. Enhanced by projection, the sound crew did a terrific job with microphones as well, with little to none mistakes. Although some areas of backstage can be seen from the house, the action and mystery on stage propels the show onward.

As the climax builds to its dramatic finish, the accusations against the guests come flying in. With a final wild twist, the real villain is discovered, and all is revealed. As it is with mysteries, all will be soon revealed once you find your first “clue.”

by Andrew Plymell of Platte County High School